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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 TAMI GALLUPE,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 SEDGWICK CLAIMS
14 MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.;
15 MONSANTO COMPANY
16 DISABILITY PLAN; and
MONSANTO COMPANY
EMPLOYEE WELFARE BENEFIT
PLAN,

17 Defendants.
18

CASE NO. C17-1775-MJP

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
PROTECTIVE ORDER

19 THIS MATTER comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for a Protective Order.
20 (Dkt. No. 52.) Having reviewed the Motion, the Response (Dkt. No. 54), the Reply (Dkt. No.
21 56) and all related papers, the Court GRANTS the Motion.

22 This case involves a claim for short-term disability benefits under the Employee
23 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), 29 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq. In ruling on such
24

1 a claim, the Court generally considers only the evidence that was before the plan administrator
2 when it denied benefits, regardless of whether the reviewing court applies an abuse of discretion
3 or a de novo standard. See, e.g., Alford v. DCH Found. Grp. Long-Term Disability Plan, 311
4 F.3d 955, 959 (9th Cir. 2002) (citation omitted); Opeta v. Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for
5 Contract Employees, 484 F.3d 1211, 1217 (9th Cir. 2007). Here, the Court finds no reason to
6 look beyond the administrative record. Defendants' claim that they need to conduct discovery to
7 determine "the completeness of the administrative record" and "whether there were any
8 procedural irregularities" is unavailing, as Defendants alone have possession of this information.

9 The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all counsel.

10 Dated July 20, 2018.

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13 The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman
14 United States District Judge
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